

MEDIA RELEASE  
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SYDNEY  
CONSERVATORIUM  
OF MUSIC

## THE CON'S MATTHEW HINDSON IS "CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD"

2009 is proving a stellar year for The Con's Chair of Arts Music, Dr **Matthew Hindson**.

Already to his credit this year are a range of new compositions, major performances of his works in Australia and overseas, working with the Dean of the Conservatorium for development of the 101 Compositions for 100 Years project and the artistic direction of the 2010 World New Music Days Festival and Aurora Festival.

Now, a senior appointment to the Australia Council.

Yesterday, Federal Arts Minister, **Peter Garrett**, named Dr Hindson Chair of the Music Board, partly in recognition of his commitment to composing a lauded portfolio of orchestral, ensemble, chamber, piano and choral music spanning more than a quarter of a century.

Congratulating Dr Hindson, the Dean and Principal of The Con, Professor **Kim Walker** said:

"This appointment is a mighty tribute to Matthew's brilliance, versatility and unstinting dedication to his endeavours on so many fronts.

"Matthew's work across composing, writing and directing appeals to audiences around the world, and has been critically recognized by international peers as one of the most dynamic voices of our times. The Con is extremely proud to have him as part of our team, and of course we are very happy to see him rewarded with this new leadership role.

I am sure his contributions will be important for the country".

Last month audiences attending The Con's Sensational Sundays concert, *Ars Ars Longa Vita Brevis*, heard some of Australia's finest musicians perform his classic *TechnoLogic*, described as "one of the most kinetic pieces of music ever written."

Hindson's international profile as a composer is on the rise. In March the London Philharmonic premiered his acclaimed work *Dangerous Creatures*, while his most recent composition, *Symphony No.2, e=mc<sup>2</sup>*, will have its first outing in September as part of a national tour by the Royal Birmingham Ballet.

In August, Hindson will be Composer in Residence at the prestigious Cabrillo Festival in California, sharing a concert with music by **Jerry Berg** of **The Grateful Dead**.

A major new work for violin and piano, *Maralinga*, has recently been given its US and Canadian premiere by international soloist **Lara St. John**, whose recording of Hindson's Violin Concerto with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra received rave reviews.

And in February, the final movement of Hindson's *Kalkadungu* (featuring didgeridoo virtuoso William Barton) was performed as part of the 2009 "G'Day USA" celebration concerts in Carnegie Hall, New York.

Hindson studied composition at the Universities of Sydney and Melbourne with **Peter Sculthorpe**, **Eric Gross**, **Brenton Broadstock** and **Ross Edwards** and his compositional influences range from classicism to techno music to heavy metal band Metallica.





He has worked in close collaboration with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra and the Sydney Youth Orchestra; has been featured extensively by Musica Viva Australia, the Vale of Glamorgan Festival in Wales and Ballett Schindowski in Germany; and is a former Composer in Residence with the Queensland Orchestra.

His research interests include Australian music, music for video games (particularly for the Nintendo Entertainment System) and musical composition with Apple's GarageBand.

Hindson is the co-author of a composition text for senior high school and early tertiary music students called *Music Composition Toolbox*.

As a member of the project team for The Con's unprecedented 101 Compositions for 100 Years project, along with **Alexa Still, Michael Smetanin, Richard Toop, Daryl Pratt** and **Kim Walker**, he has been instrumental in cementing the involvement of a range of eminent Australian and international composers, including the inaugural pairing of American **John Corigliano** and Sydney's **Carl Vine**.

Hindson is also leading the charge for The Con's hosting of the world's biggest festival of contemporary music – World New Music Days - in April-May next year.

The festival, the first time it has been held in the southern hemisphere, will involve international musicians, festival directors and composers from up to 50 countries in 20 concerts, staged across Sydney – from the CBD to as far west as Penrith and Campbelltown.

#### **Media inquiries**

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